

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR GENERATING**  
**A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF**

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A method and system are disclosed for generating and distributing a digital photographic proof. An altered image is generated by altering original image data to produce altered image data. The altered image data is stored in an electronic file. The encrypted instructions are stored in the file with the altered image data. The instructions describe a method for reversing an alteration method utilized to alter the original image to produce the altered image data. A digital photographic proof is produced utilizing the file by displaying the altered image. All users are permitted to view the altered image. Only authorized users are permitted to utilize the encrypted instructions to reproduce the original image from the altered image data. Only authorized users may reproduce the original image. The single electronic file is thus utilized to both produce a digital photographic proof and to reproduce the original image.